Media Release

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August 22, 2011

Driver Admits Snorting/Injecting "Bath Salts" during DUI Arrest

On August 17, 2011, at approximately 9 AM, a Yavapai County Sheriff's Office K9 deputy conducted a traffic stop on Willis Street at Granite Street in Prescott. The driver, 33-year-old Mayer resident Lynette Scarry, was contacted regarding invalid vehicle registration. While speaking with the driver, the deputy, a trained as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), formed an opinion Scarry was under the influence of a stimulant. Her behavior became more confrontational as the deputy detected additional signs indicating Scarry was driving impaired. She refused consent for a vehicle search.



While Scarry waited with an assisting police officer, the deputy deployed his K9 for an exterior sniff of her white Chevy Malibu. Scarry interrupted the K9 activity and told the deputy she had injected "bath salts" last night and displayed fresh injection marks on her right arm. She provided the information knowing the deputy would find a syringe and empty plastic baggies. She also admitted snorting "bath salts" in the past and commented she knew they were legal to possess. K9 "Neo" alerted on the driver's side of the vehicle and during a subsequent search, the deputy found a used syringe, two clear plastic baggies with white powder residue, and a Clonazepam tablet.

The deputy completed a field sobriety test and confirmed that Scarry was driving impaired. She was arrested for Driving under the Influence of Drugs while Impaired, Possession of Dangerous Drugs and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. She was booked at the Camp Verde Detention Center and remains in-custody on a \$3000 bond. Results from a urine test are pending, but the initial screening indicated presence of amphetamines. Drug analysis on the evidence is also underway to confirm drug classification.

The term "bath salts" is a misnomer as the substance is actually a synthetic stimulant, which is being seen by law enforcement in greater frequency around the State. "Bath salts" are sold in powder form usually in small plastic for foil packages. The effects tend to mirror that of methamphetamine and cocaine. Some symptoms from use of this substance include increased heart rate and blood pressure, agitation, chest pain, hallucinations, paranoia, anxiety and panic attacks. There are several cases of users hospitalized in Arizona due to the effects of this stimulant.

Remember, just because its currently legal doesn't make it safe. A bill is pending in the Arizona State Legislature, which would define the chemicals contained in "bath salts" as a dangerous drug.



Drug Fact Sheet

Bath Salts or Designer Cathinones (Synthetic Stimulants)

Overview

Synthetic stimulants that are marketed as "bath salts" are often found in a number of retail products. These synthetic stimulants are chemicals. The chemicals are synthetic derivatives of cathinone, a central nervous system stimulant, which is an active chemical found naturally in the khat plant. Mephedrone and MDPV (3-4 methylene-dioxypyrovalerone) are two of the designer cathinones most commonly found in these "bath salt" products. Many of these products are sold over the Internet, in convenience stores, and in "head shops."

Street names

Bilss, Blue Silk, Cloud Nine, Drone, Energy-1, Ivory Wave, Lunar Wave, Meow Meow, Ocean Burst, Pure Ivory, Purple Wave, Red Dove, Snow Leopard, Stardust, Vanilla Sky, White Dove, White Knight, White Lightening

Looks like

"Bath salt" stimulant products are sold in powder form in small plastic or foil packages of 200 and 500 milligrams under various brand names. Mephedrone is a fine white, off-white, or slightly yellow-colored powder. It can also be found in tablet and capsule form. MDPV is a fine white or off-white powder.

Methods of abuse

"Bath salts" are usually ingested by sniffing/snorting. They can also be taken orally, smoked, or put into a solution and injected into veins.

Affect on mind

People who abuse these substances have reported agitation, insomnia, irritability, dizziness, depression, paranoia, delusions, suicidal thoughts, seizures, and panic attacks. Users have also reported effects including impaired perception of reality, reduced motor control, and decreased ability to think clearly.

Affect on body

Cathinone derivatives act as central nervous system stimulants causing rapid heart rate (which may lead to heart attacks and strokes), chest pains, nosebleeds, sweating, nausea, and vomiting.

Drugs causing similar effects

Drugs that have similar effects include: amphetamines, cocaine, Khat, LSD, and MDMA.

Overdose effects

These substances are usually marketed with the warning "not intended for human consumption." Any time that users put uncontrolled or unregulated substances into their bodies, the effects are unknown and can be dangerous.

Legal status in the United States

Mephedrone has no approved medical use in the United States. It is not specifically scheduled under the Controlled Substances Act, but it is a chemical analogue of methcathinone, which is a Schedule I controlled substance. Incidents involving mephedrone can be prosecuted under the Federal Analog Act of the Controlled Substances Act. MDPV (3,4-methylenedioxypy-rovalerone) has no approved medical use in the United States. MDPV is not scheduled under the CSA.

Common places of origin

Law enforcement officials believe that the stimulant chemicals contained in these products are manufactured in China and India and packaged for wholesale distribution in Eastern Europe. Many countries have banned these products.

PRESS RELEASE

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Statement from White House Drug Policy Director on Synthetic Stimulants

a.k.a "Bath Salts"

- Washington, D.C.—Today, Gil Kerlikowske, Director of National Drug Control Policy, released the following statement following recent reports indicating the emerging threat of synthetic stimulants, including MDPV (3,4methylenedioxypyrovalerone) and mephedrone. These stimulants are often sold and marketed in stores as "bath salts" under names such as "Ivory Wave" or "Purple Wave."
- "I am deeply concerned about the distribution, sale, and use of synthetic stimulants especially those that are marketed as legal substances. Although we lack sufficient data to understand exactly how prevalent the use of these stimulants are, we know they pose a serious threat to the health and well-being of young people and anyone who may use them. At a time when drug use in America is increasing, the marketing and sale of these poisons as "bath salts" is both unacceptable and dangerous. As public health officials work to address this emerging threat, I ask that parents and other adult influencers act immediately to discuss with young people the severe harm that can be caused by the use of both legal and illegal drugs and to prevent drug use before it starts."
- Recent information from poison control centers indicates that abuse of these unlicensed and unregulated drugs is growing across the country. According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, there were 251 calls related to "bath salts" to poison control centers so far this year. This number already exceeds the 236 calls received by poison control centers for all of 2010. Doctors and clinicians at U.S. poison centers have indicated that ingesting "bath salts," containing synthetic stimulants, can cause chest pains, increased blood pressure, increased heart rate, agitation, hallucinations, extreme paranoia, and delusions. Already, several states have introduced legislation to ban these products, including Florida, Hawaii, Michigan, Louisiana, Kentucky, and North Dakota. Several counties, cities, and local municipalities have also taken action to ban these products.

Talk to your kids about drugs. Research shows parents are the best messengers to deliver critical information on drug use. Make sure they know of the harms that can result from drug use and that you don't approve of them. For tips and parenting advice visit www.TheAntiDrug.com.

1. Learn to spot risk factors that can lead to drug use. Association with drug-abusing peers is often the most immediate risk factor that can lead young people to drug use and delinquent behavior. Other risk factors include poor classroom behavior or social skills and academic failure. Parents can protect their kids from these influences by building strong bonds with their children, staying involved in their lives, and setting clear limits and consistent enforcement of discipline.

For more information on National efforts to reduce drug use and its consequences visit: www.WhiteHouseDrugPolicy.gov

The Office of National Drug Control Policy seeks to foster healthy individuals and safe communities by effectively leading the Nation's effort to reduce drug use and its consequences.

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